



NEWS RELEASE

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Special City Council meeting Monday to consider permit fees for Sandy damage

Hampton City Council will hold a special meeting on Monday, Nov. 5, to vote on two matters related to Hurricane Sandy.

City Manager Mary Bunting has proposed waiving building permit fees for residents and businesses that have repairs associated with damage from the recent storm. Similar actions were taken after other major disasters, most recently the June tornadoes and last year's Hurricane Irene. (Permits are still required for work.)

Sandy does not appear to have inflicted as much damage on Hampton as either of those two disasters. City teams have so far identified 34 properties that suffered from the most recent storm, and no buildings have been condemned. Estimates so far are nearly \$500,000 in property damage, though that could increase. Residents and businesses that suffered damage are asked to call 311 (727-8311 from a cell), even if they have insurance, to document the loss.

The June tornadoes caused about \$4.3 million in property damage. Irene estimates were in excess of \$2.3 million.

City Council will also consider ratifying the declaration of a local emergency for the storm. The city manager, acting in her capacity as director of emergency management, made the declaration Oct. 27.

Monday's meeting is at noon in City Council chambers on the 8 floor of City Hall, 22 Lincoln St. It will be broadcast live on the Hampton City Channel (47 on Cox cable; 23 on FIOS) and also streamed on hampton.gov.

Council also has added a meeting at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, to complete its strategic retreat. That retreat, in the Community Development Conference room on the 5th floor, is open to the public but will not be televised. The regularly scheduled meetings on Nov. 14 will be in Council Chambers and televised: 1 p.m. work session; 6 p.m. public comment; 7 p.m. meeting.